

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-17, 43, 44, 47, and 48 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 1, 13, 43, and 48 have been amended, and claims 8, 9, 14, 18-22, and 45 are cancelled.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 9, 14, 16, and 45. Accordingly, amendments to claim 1 include the limitations of claim 9 and such intervening limitations as are necessary to define over the prior art, including those of claim 8. Claims 8, 9, and 14 are cancelled. Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, together with dependent claim 2-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-17, 47, and 48.

Claim 43 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 45, which is accordingly cancelled. Claim 43 and dependent claim 44 are now in condition for allowance.

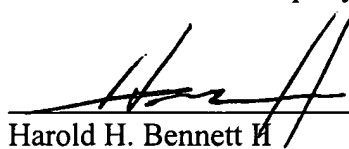
In view of the above recited amendments, the rejections under 35 USC §§102 and 103 are moot.

Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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